

Recent events in the County have led to wild accusation, mistrust, and improper claims. I believe the public deserves to hear a different view about these events, and decide for themselves what they expect from their elected officials.

In the past, corrupt San Bernardino County officials have violated the public's trust by making inappropriate deals outside the public view. Once again, public trust has been violated, however this time by the release of confidential information. Damaging confidence that the County has worked diligently to regain. I make this statement with great disappointment; I believe the motive for leaking the confidential document was governed by a personal agenda at the expense of taxpayers trust.

All members of the board are elected and therefore given the trust of their constituents. They are sworn to uphold and defend the law. Therefore, if any Board member was responsible, directly or indirectly, for this act, they have broken the law and violated the very fundamental trust of those they represent.

In addition to the damage that has already occurred, there is a great possibility that any attempt to settle this issue has been destroyed. If the issue is not settled, continued litigation would cost taxpayers millions in attorney fees, and millions in potential liability that could result through the court's judgment. I believe there is a settlement that could be reached, saving taxpayers from these unnecessary expenses.

It is important to note that I did receive campaign contributions from members of the Colonies project during my recent campaign. However, I have received contributions from these same individuals during previous elections. I have known many of the Colonies partners for a long time. I consider many of them to be true friends, which is why they have supported me during previous elections. Never have any of them asked me to do any "favors" for them, or anything even remotely unethical. As an elected official, I approach every decision with grave concern and much consideration. I find it an overwhelming privilege that the residents of the fourth district have entrusted me to represent their best interest. Regardless of any contribution or friendship, I have never made any decision based on personal relationships that violated the public's trust. A statement, which I am sad to say, is obviously not true of everyone I work with.